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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF INTOLERANCE AND OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF

Letter dated 14 February 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

On 7 February a note verbale was circulated by the Permanent Mission of the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)" as a document (E/CN.4/1995/123) of the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights. I consider that the Bureau of the Commission should discuss the issue of the "war of letters" practised by this Mission which due to the international legal status and political isolation of the country which it represents has resorted to distributing as United Nations documents its fabrications and accusations against the international community at large and specific countries. Needless to say that financial resources used for the purpose of preparing and translating such propaganda, which are from the United Nations budget, could be more appropriately utilized.

The said document contains errors of fact and distorted statements of sheer propaganda on the alleged violations of the religious rights of the Serbs in the Republic of Croatia, which our authorities and public are already accustomed to. They form a pattern of orchestrated and targeted propaganda intended to "confuse" the issue of their aggression committed against the Republic of Croatia.

In such circumstances I wish to place on record that my Government utterly rejects such unfounded accusations. For the benefit of the members of the Commission on Human Rights I am enclosing the following documents:*

- Statement by H.E. Dr. Mate Granić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia, commenting on the letter of Mr. Vladislav Jovanović,

- Statement by Bishop Marko Culej, President of the Council of the Croatian Episcopal Conference for the Media,

- Interview with Jovan Nikolić, a Serbian Orthodox priest in Zagreb.

I have the honour to request you, Excellency, to circulate this letter as an official document of the fifty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights under item 22 "Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief".

(Signed): Neven Madey

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* These documents are kept in the Secretariat files and are available for consultation upon request.